

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VICTOR 00303 052309Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 NASA-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 SCA-01
PC-01 IO-13 /097 W

-----052316Z 077764 /65

O 051830Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE 388

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES ALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 303

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CASC, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES COUP D' ETAT: PRIME MINISTER RENE'S RADIO
SPEECH.

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER RENE HAS DELIVERED BRIEF RADIO ADDRESS
DWELLING ON BACKGROUND BEHIND JUNE 5 COUP WHICH OVERTHREW
GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MANCHAM. SPEECH WAS LARGELY UNREVEALING
ABOUT FUTURE COURSE OF HIS REGIME. MAIN THEME STRESSED WAS FACT THAT
"PEOPLE" HAD CARRIED OUT COUP WHICH WAS JUSTIFIED BECAUSE
MANCHAM WAS INCREASINGLY UNDER FOREIGN INFLUENCE,
INTENDED TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS FOR SEVEN YEARS AND PLANNED TO
MAKE HIMSELF A DICTATOR. RENE AGREED TO LEAD THE "PEOPLE"
AND ASSURE THEIR RIGHTS. NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW
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SEYCHELLOIS TO BECOME "SLAVES OF CAPITALISTS AND FOREIGN
COUNTRIES." HE SAID SEYCHELLES WILL MAINTAIN EXISTING GOOD
RELATIONS BUT WOULD BE NO ONE'S PUPPET. MORE DETAILED POLICY
SPEECH, TO INCLUDE COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT, WILL
BE DELIVERED TOMORROW. RENE PROMISED THAT "NO ONE WOULD SUFFER
FROM CHANGES TAKING PLACE" AND URGED PEOPLE TO ABIDE BY CURFEW
ORDER. END SUMMARY

1. AT 1915 HOURS LOCAL TIME PRIME MINISTER RENE, SPEAKING IN FRENCH (LATER TRANSLATED INTO CREOLE AND ENGLISH), SAID THAT SINCE 0200 5 JUNE MAJOR EVENTS HAD UNFOLDED, SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT WHICH HE INDICATED HE COULD NOT REVEAL FOR TIME BEING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT MANCHAM FOR SOME TIME HAD BEEN LEADING SEYCHELLES TOWARD DICTATORSHIP AND FOREIGN INFLUENCE. RENE POINTED OUT HE HAD SEEN THIS DRIFT AND HAD PERSONALLY PROTESTED TO MANCHAM CONCERNING HIS POLICIES. ACCORDING TO RENE MANCHAM REACTED BY TELLING RENE HE WOULD CONTINUE POLICIES DESPITE OPPOSITION. RENE SAID AT THIS POINT HE FELT IT WAS HIS DUTY TO INFORM "PEOPLE" ABOUT MANCHAM'S INTENTIONS. HE CLAIMED HE PROCEEDED TO DO SO ON BROAD FRONT AND "PEOPLE" SAW NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO MOUNT COUP D' ETAT.

2. RENE ACCEPTED OFFER TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT AND INTENDS TO ENSURE THAT SEYCHELLOIS' RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES ARE UPHELD. HE CONTINUED THAT HE WOULD ALSO ENSURE THEY DO NOT BECOME "SLAVES OF CAPITALISTS AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES." HE ADDED HE INTENDED TO REMAIN ON GOOD TERMS WITH ALL NATIONS BUT WILL NOT ALLOW SEYCHELLES TO BECOME PUPPET OF ANY NATION.

3. RENE ASSURED LISTENERS THAT NONE WILL SUFFER FROM CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT, GIVEN THE IMPACT OF EVENTS STILL UNFOLDING, HE PRESENTLY UNABLE TO GIVE DETAILED STATEMENT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR COMPOSITION. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED SOMETIME JUNE 6.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER WARNED THE POPULACE TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES
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AND OBEY THE CURFEW. HE REITERATED THE EXCEPTIONS WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ALL DAY, I. E. INDIVIDUALS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS UTILITIES, HOSPITALS, AIRPORT AND ADDED HOTEL WORKERS TO THIS EXEMPTED GROUP.

5. COMMENT: SPEECH CONTAINED FEW SURPRISES AND ONLY HINTS AS TO THE FUTURE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES OF NEW GOVERNMENT. DESPITE THIRD WORLD JARGON, SPEECH APPEARED TO BE DESIGNED TO CONVEY A MEASURE OF REASSURANCE AND MODERATION. WHETHER RENE INTENDS TO FOLLOW A MODERATE COURSE, GIVEN FACT HE HAS BEEN PROPELLED TO POWER BY INDIVIDUALS DEFINITELY LEFT OF CENTER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. RENE'S SYMPATHIZING WITH GOALS OF COUP ORGANIZERS WHILE DISASSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM THE ACTUAL OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT (OF WHICH HE WAS PART) SEEMS HIGHLY IMPLAUSIBLE.

MATTSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 05-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, CASC, SE, (RENE, FRANCE ALBERT)
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